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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Patrick BRIOT et al. : Examiner: N. Preisch

Serial No.: 09/644,605 : Group Art Unit: 1764

Filed: August 24, 2000 :

For: **PROCESS FOR PRODUCING OILS WITH A HIGH VISCOSITY INDEX**

AMENDMENT

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 23, 2001, Applicants wish to amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please cancel the abstract and replace with the attached abstract.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for producing oils with a high viscosity index from a feed containing constituents with boiling points of more than about 300°C comprising
- a) reacting hydrogen with the feed or with a mixture of the feed with at least a fraction of a stream recycled from c), in the presence of a catalyst comprising at least one amorphous non zeolitic matrix and at least one metal or compound of a metal from group VIII of the periodic table and/or at least one metal from group VIB to produce an effluent;
 - a') Fractionating the effluent obtained from a) or d) in at least one separator, into at least one gaseous effluent which is